Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The preprocessed input image is then provided to the classification assembly 54 at each of a plurality of feature extractors 610, 612, 614, where feature extractor 614 represents an Nth classifier grid model and N is an integer greater than one. The feature extractors 610, 612, 614 extract feature data representing the input image for associated classifiers 620, 622, 624, where classifier 614 624 represents an Nth classifier and N is an integer greater than one. In the illustrated embodiment, each classifier represents a particular output class. A given feature extractor (*e.g.*, 610) utilizes a classifier grid model representing its associated output class. It will be appreciated, however, that the classifiers 620, 622, 624 can be configured to have multiple associated classes. In such a case, the grid model for each classifier would be configured to represent multiple output classes.